The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerks will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 34) congratulating the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of their full independence.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment, an amendment to the preamble, and an amendment to the title, as follows:

[Omit the part in black brackets and insert the part printed in italic.]

S. CON. RES. 34

Whereas the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were forcibly and illegally incorporated into the Soviet Union from 1940 until 1991; Whereas their forcible and illegal incorporation into the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States; Whereas, from 1940 to 1991, thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians were executed, imprisoned, or exiled by Soviet authorities through a regime of brutal repression, Sovietization, and Russification in their respective nations; Whereas, despite the efforts of the Soviet Union to eradicate the memory of independ- encé, the Baltic people never lost their hope for freedom and their long-held dream of full independence; Whereas, during the period of “glasnost” and “perestroika” in the Soviet Union, the Baltic people led the struggle for democratic reform and national independence; and Whereas, in the years following the restoration of full independence, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have demonstrated their commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and have actively par- ticipated in a wide range of international structures, pursuing further integration with Europe, the Atlantic, economic, and security organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Rep- resentatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the restoration of their full independence, and

(2) calls on the President to continue to build the close and mutually beneficial relations the United States has enjoyed with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania since the restoration of the full independence of those nations, and

The title amendment was agreed to.

DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 86, S. Con. Res. 53.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 53) encouraging the development of strategies to reduce hunger and poverty, and to promote free market economies and democratic institutions, in sub-Saharan Africa. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate will unanimously pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 53: Africa Hunger to Harvest. I believe a successful resolution because, strongly believe that this is an important first step toward a renewed commitment to acting in concert with our African partners to significantly reduce poverty and hunger on the subcontinent in the next ten years. I saw to it that the resolution moved out of the Foreign Relations Committee exped- diously because I wanted this legisla- tion to pass with all due haste. As you know, the G-8 members are preparing for their meeting in Genoa. I hope that President Bush will interpret the pas- sage of Africa: Hunger to Harvest as a signal of the Senate’s support for de- velopment in Africa, and obtain commit- ments from other members of the G-8 to devise comprehensive plans to increase the ability of African nations to feed their people.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a region with vast human and economic potential. There is a preponderance of natural resources, and a large enough population to provide the labor necessary to fuel industrialization. Yet Africa, for the most part, has not prospered. It is the only region of the world where hunger is increasing. In the past thirty years the number of hungry people in Africa has more than doubled to the point where one of every three Africans is chronically undernourished. There are many reasons why: war, natural disaster, corruption, and poor governance, to name a few. And while African themselves must take ultimate responsibility for the success or failure of their countries, we have the resources and opportunity to help improve the lives of millions of people living there.

This resolution lays out a prelimi- nary blueprint for doing so. It directs the American Agency for International Develop- ment to devise solid, concrete five- and ten-year strategic plans to help Afri- cans reverse the current state of affairs for many living in the region, and asks that the plans focus on such key areas as the establishment of democratic in- stitutions, privatize sector, and free mar- ket development, access to education, improved health, and debt relief. The blueprint itself acknowledges that hun- ger and poverty must be attached along these critical fronts to be elimi- nated.

A necessary component to achieving development is stability in the region, but stability alone will not result in economic growth and improved living conditions. The establishment of the rule of law and democratic institutions is also necessary. Africans must have a say in the structure of their societies. They must be able to find a remedy through courts, they must have rules and regulations in place that provide an environment where they must be able to put leaders in place that are dedicated and capable of im- posing sound fiscal and economic poli- cies. Leaders that work for the African
people. That is why an emphasis on building democratic institutions is an essential building block in any plan to help underprivileged African countries. Establishing institutions, accountability and rule of law helps establish favorable conditions for investment in the private sector.

Such investment is supported by increased opportunities for education, especially for women and girls. Education must be an integral part of this undertaking. While the illiteracy rate for women in the developing world stands at 52 percent, in Africa it is approaching 48 percent. In other words, nearly half the women in Sub-Saharan Africa are completely illiterate, according to the World Bank. This has very serious and costly implications. Women with more education have fewer children. Women who work in the house are soldiers as well as mine workers and account for 70 percent of the labor force. Those women are less likely to marry young than girls who work in the fields. They are less likely to marry as late as 20 or 30 years. Education changes all of this.

Great education increase a mother’s knowledge about child healthcare, which increases the chances that their offspring will grow to adulthood. Having fewer children frees more resources to educate the children families already have. The illiteracy rate for men and Africa is just as startling: 31.1 percent compared to 18 percent in the rest of the developing world. Economic growth is nearly impossible without investment in human capital. We must work to change this state of affairs

Health indicators are equally alarming. The infant mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is higher than in any other region of the world. For every 1000 children born, 107 die in infancy. The under five mortality rate is 160 for every child born. This rate is significantly lower than it is in the rest of the developing world. Life expectancy has dropped more than seven years because of the disease. It knows no boundaries of income or education or occupation. Teacher and soldiers as well as mine workers and women who work in the house equally at risk. While there are a few notable exceptions, it seems as though African heads of state are just now beginning to realize that they cannot hold their hands in the sand with respect to this issue. We must help and encourage them to not only devise credible plans to combat the spread of the disease, but to speak out about it.

All of the above emphasizes the fact that development in the health sector must be as part of USAID’s strategic plans on humanitarian grounds and economic grounds. If we fail to do so, we risk losing a huge portion of the population of African countries, both in infancy due to childhood maladies and between the ages of 15 and 49, which is the bulk of the working population.

Finally, let me say that while we have made great strides on the issue of debt relief, we need to continue our efforts. Many countries will continue to have unsustainable levels of debt despite the advances that were made by the global ecumenical debt relief movement. Debt relief has positive results. In Uganda, for example, debt relief has meant that the government has increased spending on education so that children are able to attend primary school for free. New ways must be found to provide resources for countries where the poorest of the poor residents reside.

A reversal of fortune for the region is sorely needed. The rest of the world is leaving Africa behind in terms of economic development. It was the only region in the world to have experienced a shrinkage of Gross Domestic Product during the past 25 years. This trend will continue unless we make a lot of work ahead of us. The United States will never be able to help African nations feed their hungry populations without dedicating resources to implement plans which concentrate on the areas aforementioned. My colleagues have heard me say over and over again that we are not spending enough money on constructive foreign assistance programs such as the one set out in Senate Congressional Resolution 53. I repeat that admonition and add this: We can direct USAID to develop as many plans as we want to. At the end of the day, we must be willing to finance such plans. I stand ready to do so. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. REID. I ask consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 53) was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 53
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This concurrent resolution may be cited as the "Hunger to Harvest: Decade of Support for Sub-Saharan Africa Resolution".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds the following:
1) Despite economic progress in recent years, sub-Saharan Africa enters the new millennium with many of the world’s poorest countries and is the one region of the world where the number of hungry is both increasing and its economic goals.
2) Thirty-three of the world’s 41 poorest debtor countries are in sub-Saharan Africa and an estimated 281,000,000 people, nearly one-fourth of Africa, which is half of Africa’s total population, currently live in extreme poverty on less than $1 a day.

(3) One in three people in sub-Saharan Africa is chronically undernourished, doubling the number of three decades ago. One child out of seven dies before the age of five, and one-half of these deaths are due to malnutrition.

(5) Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 70 percent of adults, and 80 percent of children, living with the HIV virus, and 75 percent of the people worldwide who have died of AIDS lived in Africa.

(6) The HIV/AIDS pandemic has erased many of the development gains of the past generation in sub-Saharan Africa and now threatens to undermine economic and social progress for the next generation, with life expectancy in parts of sub-Saharan Africa having already decreased by 10-20 years as a result of AIDS.

(7) Despite these immense challenges, the number of sub-Saharan African countries that are moving toward open economies and accountable governments has increased, and these countries are beginning to achieve local solutions to their common problems.

(8) To make lasting improvements in the lives of the people, sub-Saharan Africa governments need support as they act to solve conflicts, make critical investments in human capacity and infrastructure, combat corruption, reform their economies, stimulate trade and equitable economic growth, and build democracy.

(9) Despite sub-Saharan Africa’s enormous development challenges, United States companies hold approximately $12,800,000,000 in investments in sub-Saharan Africa, greater than United States investments in either the Middle East or Eastern Europe, and total United States trade with sub-Saharan Africa currently exceeds that with all of the independent states of the former Soviet Union, including the Russian Federation. This economic relationship could be put at risk unless additional public and private investments are provided to combat poverty and promote equitable economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

(10) Bread for the World Institute calculates that the goal of reducing world hunger by one-half by 2015 is achievable through an increase of $4,000,000,000 in annual funding from all donors for poverty-focused development. If the United States were to shoulder one-fourth of this aid burden—approximately $1,000,000,000 a year—the cost to each United States citizen would be one penny per day.

(11) Failure to effectively address sub-Saharan Africa’s development needs could result in greater conflict and increased poverty, heightening the prospects of humanitarian intervention and potentially threatening a wide range of United States interests in sub-Saharan Africa.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.
It is the sense of Congress that—
1) the years 2002 through 2012 should be declared a Decade of Support for Sub-Saharan Africa’;
2) not later than 90 days after the date of adoption of this concurrent resolution, the President should submit a report to Congress setting forth a five-year strategy, and a ten-year strategy, to achieve a reversal of current levels of hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, including a commitment to contribute an appropriate United States share of increased bilateral and multilateral
Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of the Republican leadership, I understand the House Joint Resolution 36 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 36

Mr. REID. Mr. President, because we think we were going to be able to do tonight, but for various reasons they were not done.

We hope to complete the debate on the Graham nomination which has an agreed-upon time. And, of course, we hope to begin consideration of the Transportation Appropriations Act.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate adjourn following the statement by the Senator from the State of Alabama, Mr. Sessions.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this is a request for testifying. The resolution (S. Res. 136) was submitted earlier today by the majority and other Republican leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alabama.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity just to say a few words. I thank Senator Reid for his leadership and effort to move the legislation that has been moving forward pretty well so far. I think this side has certainly been cooperative. We have not had anything like the 100-plus amendments that we had when this side was trying to move bills last year. We have been very cooperative.

There is a real concern that this administration, as it gets itself into office facing all kinds of challenges, needs to get its people on board as soon as possible. We are now entering the seventh month of President Bush's administration. Maybe 15 percent of his term has been used up, and we now have 150 nominees who have not been confirmed. Maybe there will be some objections to some and they will need some scrutiny, but most of them are nominations which, if called up and are voted upon, are going to pass virtually unanimously.

These are good men and women who have left their jobs and careers. They are committed to public service for a good, firm commitment we will move these nominations before we leave in August for a month away because then